Section I (Pending Claims)

Please amend claim 1 and add new claims 18-20, as set out in the following listing of claims 1-20 of the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing nanoparticles, having a size of less than 1 μm, for the administration of active ingredients, comprising the steps of: a) dissolving a biodegradable polymer together with a polyoxyethylene-derived block copolymer in a nonpolar organic solvent to form a solution, the weight ratio of the biodiegradable polymer to the polyoxyethylene-derived polymer being between 1:0.1 and 1:3; b) adding, with stirring, the solution obtained in step a) to a polar phase, wherein the biodegradable polymer has low solubility, precipitating the polymer and forming the nanoparticles; c) eliminating the organic solvent; and d) isolating the particles, wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in the organic solvent used in a) before or after step a), or is dissolved in a small volume of [[the]] aqueous phase, which is then dispersed in the organic solvent used in a), before or after step a), and wherein the method does not involve a cholesterol compound.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising lyophilizing the nanoparticles obtained.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a polyester.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a polyanhydride.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the polyester is selected from among polycaprolactone, polylactic acid, polylactic co-glycolic acid and their mixtures.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the block copolymer comprises a poloxamer.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the poloxamer has a molecular weight comprised between 1,000 and 25,000 Daltons.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the block copolymer is a poloxamine.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the poloxamine has a molecular weight comprised between 1,000 and 25,000 Daltons.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is selected from molecules with therapeutic properties, vaccines and cosmetic ingredients.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the biodiegradable polymer to the polyoxyethylene-derived polymer is between 1:1 and 1:3.

12. (Original) Nanoparticles for the administration of pharmaceutically- or cosmetically-active ingredients, having a size of less than 1 μm, as produced by the method of claim 1.

13. (Original) Lyophilized nanoparticles for the administration of pharmaceutically- or cosmetically-active ingredients, having a size of less than 1 μm, as produced by the method of claim 2.

14. (Original) A composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 12.

15. (Original) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 12.

16. (Original) A composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 13.

17. (Original) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 13.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, consisting essentially of steps a) to d).

19. (New) The method of claim 1, consisting of steps a) to d).

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a polyester or polyanhydride, the block copolymer is a poloxamer, and the weight ratio of the biodiegradable polymer to the polyoxyethylene-derived polymer is between 1:1 and 1:3.